

STATE

COUNTY

TOWN OR VICINITY

CALIFORNIA

Alameda

Berkeley

1P

INDEX NUMBER

MONUMENT

Peralta Hall

CAL. 1-BERK, 1-

(St. Joseph's Academy)

REPRESENTED IN  
NEGATIVE FILE

H.A.B.S. SURVEY NO.

CAL-1655

History: Built in 1882 by Maurice  
Curtis, an actor, capitalist, andPUBLISHED  
PHOTOGRAPHSlandowner who operated a theater in  
San Francisco. Built as a retreat for actorsPUBLISHED  
DRAWINGSbut project failed and he occupied it as his  
lavish home. Purported to have been victorin duel but lost big fortune and home in the  
court of law. Place became a night club and  
headquarters of a candy company.In 1903 the Christian Brothers  
Institute took it over and (cont)

established St. Joseph's Academy boarding school and later St. Mary's College High School. Completely razed in 1959, after being cut down to a two story building in 1946.

Description: Six story many turreted palace, a cross between a Bavarian Castle and a Swiss chalet with three 80 ft. steeples and a smattering of gables and dormers Moorish arcades, stained glass windows, pendants and finials which gave the large building situated on top a knoll a theatrical and romantic story-book appearance.

References: Clipping file in California Room of Oakland Public Lib. Oakland Tribune, Oct 4, 1959.

Author of Card: A. Lewis Koue, AIA, Oakland, California  
September 1961